



THE BEACON

Upcoming Dates

December 2
Lottie Moon Banquet - 6:30 pm

December 4
Youth Meeting - Noon

December 7
Movie Night - 6:00 pm

December 10
VIP Trip
Children's Christmas Party
11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Children's Christmas Store
1:30-3:00 pm

December 11
VCU Horn Choir
11:00 am

December 14
Family Fun Night -6:45 pm

December 15
Senior Dinner - 6:00 pm

December 18
Choir Cantata - 11:00 am
Youth Christmas Party
Noon - 2:30 pm

December 21
Candlelight Service 7:00 pm

December 25
Christmas Day Worship
11:00 am

Have you ever wondered what Joseph and Mary talked about on their journey to Bethlehem for the census? Mary was late in her pregnancy and she would soon give birth to Jesus. Joseph and Mary knew that this would not be an ordinary child. Angels had communicated to both of them that God was about to do something wonderful. Yet, I imagine like most expecting parents they talked about their hopes and dreams for their new baby. Perhaps they imagined what God would do through their son in the years ahead. Such conversation would be expected along their journey.

As Pine Street continues its journey of Pursuing Missional Faithfulness we too find ourselves discussing our hopes and dreams for our church in the years to come. How do we envision Pine Street five or ten years from now? What will our church look like? What ministries will we be sharing? What about our worship, discipleship, and fellowship? These are all important questions for reflection as we move into our future story. Just as Joseph and Mary pondered the future before them, we too must prayerfully consider our future and God's plans for us.

As 2012 draws near our Pursuing Missional Faithfulness leadership community will begin the process of crafting our future story. The intentional times of sharing and praying over the last year in the church will help form the framework for our story. Under the guidance of God's Spirit we shall seek to live out that story as our journey continues.

The prophet Jeremiah wrote to a people struggling to understand their future with these words, "*For I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.*" (Jeremiah 29:11) These words are also given to us as a people of faith. They remind us that ultimately our future belongs to God and that we can trust in Him as that future unfolds.

Philip

Christmas at Pine Street Baptist Church

December 2

Lottie Moon Banquet for International Missions
6:30 P.M.

December 7

Christmas Movie Night:
6:00 P.M.

December 10

Children's Christmas Store
1:00-2:30 P.M.

December 11

V.C.U. Horn Ensemble in morning worship

December 14

Family Christmas Night Party
6:45 P.M.

December 18

Choir Christmas Cantata in morning worship

December 21

Candlelight Service
7:00 P.M.

December 25

Christmas Day Worship
11:00 A.M.
(no Sunday School)

Clint's Corner

In Argentina they say, "Feliz Navidad." In France it's, "Joyeux Noel." Across the Pacific Ocean in Vietnam they say, "Chuc Mung Giang Sinh," and in Portugal it's, "Felix Natal." Over in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, on the islands of Hawaii, they say, "Mele Kalikimaka." Here at Pine Street Baptist Church we say, "Merry Christmas."

An Internet search reveals hundreds of ways to say "Merry Christmas" in languages around the world. The problem (even as the debate rages on) is that we're not supposed to say, "Merry Christmas." In case you haven't heard, these two words, along with many others, were labeled as politically incorrect years ago. From certain points of view it would be rude, or even insulting, to say, "Merry Christmas" to someone who was not a Christian. So, for those of us who bleed red, green, silver, and gold at this time of year, what are we to do?

Personally, I try to be sensitive to those of other faith communities, realizing that, without compromising my own faith, there are other methods of well-wishing during the Christmas season. I also note that "Merry Christmas" is a human invention; it is not found in the Bible. Perhaps we wish they did, but the Magi did not enter the home of the infant Jesus amidst shouts of, "Merry Christmas!"

So what's a good Christian to do? Perhaps we can say "Merry Christmas" without ever saying a word. That is, through our actions. We can say it through our support of the annual Christmas Store. We can say it by helping with the Food Pantry one Thursday morning. We can say it by offering a ride to someone who is normally unable to make it to church. We can say it by visiting some of our senior friends. Many are the ways to say, "Merry Christmas" without saying a word. However we say it, let us share more than just these two words this holiday season; let us share our very lives. And, just in case you think I forgot: *Merry Christmas.*

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS STORE:

Saturday, Dec. 10th 1-2:30 PM. Each year teens from 2nd Baptist Church host a Christmas Store here at the OHBC at which children can come and "shop" for free gifts for their family members. The 2nd Baptist teens bring refreshments and an assortment of gifts. We can always use extra gifts for this event! If you would like to donate a new or "like new" item to this store then please give to Jennifer Turner by Wednesday, December 7th. Items need to be appropriate for adult men & women and need not be expensive. *Dollar Tree items are great!*



The Gospel According to Harry Potter
A Wednesday Night Discussion Beginning January 4



Never before in the history of the world and literary experience have so many been united as a human family – despite differences in age, gender, ethnicity, culture, politics, nationality, or religion – by a series of books read globally and simultaneously in 65 languages. Yet, as often before in literary history, these books have also been maligned and misunderstood, banned and burned.

Christian author Connie Neal in her Introduction to the Revised and Expanded Edition of The Gospel According to Harry Potter.

Is J. K. Rowling’s own Christian faith infused in these stories, even though it may not have been her intent? My answer is, “Yes!” Judeo-Christian imagery abounds in her books; a story of “good news” is being told. Using what is familiar to a culture to relate unfamiliar spiritual truths has been used by Christians back to the time of Christ, and by Jesus himself. How scandalous it was when Jesus dared to make a hated Samaritan the hero of one of his parables. Each week we will explore passages from the Harry Potter series, draw parallels with the Bible narrative, and view a few clips from the movie series.

Connie Neal closes out her Introduction with these appropriate words: *To all, I hope the power of the biblical themes enriches your understanding of the Harry Potter stories, of the battle of good against evil, and of the idea that love among all people is the most powerful force for good. Just love? Yes, just love.*

Where is God When it Hurts?

Living with Pain, Suffering, and Heartache

Wednesday Night Study beginning January 4 at 6:45 P.M.



Where is God in the midst of pain and suffering? This question has been asked since the beginning of time and is still asked by people today. Join us on Wednesday nights for a study of Philip Yancey's book, *Where Is God When It Hurts?*

You're Invited!

Grace Arents School: Celebrating 100 Years of Educating Richmond Students

Open High School invites you to attend an
OPEN HOUSE
celebrating the centennial anniversary of the
Grace Arents School Building.



Saturday, December 17, 2011
10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

Christmas Poinsettias for Worship

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the church during Christmas in honor or memory of someone then please fill out order cards found at the church. Order cards may be given directly to the church office or placed in the offering plate. The cost of a poinsettia is \$14.



THANKSgiving Ministries @ the Oregon Hill Baptist Center



Thanks to everyone who contributed canned goods & gift cards for Thanksgiving Bags, OR cooked a dish or helped serve at our lunch for our homeless friends in November! We gave out bags & gift cards to 83 households (15 more than last year), and we served 29 at our meal.

Humphrey Home Christmas Gifts



Once again we will be collecting gifts for our friends at the Humphrey Home. Pick up a paper mitten on the door frame in the 2nd floor foyer for a requested gift. Purchase the gift and return it to Jennifer Downer by Sunday, December 18th. Thanks for sharing the true meaning of Christmas.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Don't forget the Lottie Moon Christmas offering this year for international missions. Our church goal for this year is \$6000. The national offering goal is \$175 million. Every penny of the Lottie Moon offering goes to the missionaries on the field. Pray for our missionaries as well as how much you can give this year.



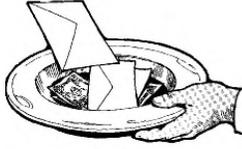
Richmond Baptist Association Christmas Store

Thanks to everyone who contributed items to the Richmond Baptist Association's Christmas store. On December 1 and 2 parents will have an opportunity to shop for gifts for their children at Christmas. This annual mission project continues to bless many families during this time of the year.



Budget Report Through November 27

Budget : \$31,113
 Given to Date: \$26,628
 Variance: -\$4,485



**Contributions were made to the
 Ministries Endowment in memory of:**
*Clara and Robert Hagan, Billy Wells,
 Norman B. Wood, Jr.*

**Contributions were made to the
 Properties Endowment in memory of:**
*Norman B. Wood, Jr., Elizabeth Huband,
 Billy Wells*

**Contributions were made to the
 General Fund in memory of:**
Norman B. Wood, Jr.

Congratulations to

James and Melissa Childress in the birth
 of their son, Mason James Childress
 November 21, 2011



December Birthdays

- 3: Nancy Jernigan
 Terry Donohue
 Della Smith
- 4: Flynn Townsend
- 5: Debbie Thacker
- 7: Diane Pinder
- 9: David Johnston
- 10: Belinda Alvis
- 12: Karen Jarrell
 Thomas Scott Knighton
- 13: Virginia Brooks
- 15: Mike O'Donnell
- 18: Mary Wright
- 19: Dot Wood
- 22: Charles Hairfield Jr.
 Elizabeth Shifflet
- 23: Zora Garretson
- 27: Chris Lail
 Michael Jernigan
- 28: Linda Johnston
 Claudia Neal
- 29: Mindy Herring

Anniversaries

- 29: Allen and Susan Townsend

Snow Closing Information

If the church would have to close this winter due to inclement weather, then that announcement would be called into the local TV news stations as well as a message left on the church answering



**Pine Street Baptist Church
A Steadfast Fellowship of Grace**

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**We're on the web at:
www.pinestbaptist.com**

Merry Christmas from
Pine Street Baptist Church

